

MINUTES

**MONTANA SENATE
59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE AND SAFETY

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN BRENT R. CROMLEY**, on April 6, 2005 at 3:20 P.M., in Room 317-A Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Brent R. Cromley, Chairman (D)
Sen. John Cobb (R)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Sen. Duane Grimes (R)
Sen. Lynda Moss (D)
Sen. Jerry O'Neil (R)
Sen. Dan Weinberg (D)
Sen. Carol Williams (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Trudi Schmidt (D)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: David Niss, Legislative Branch
Rita Tenneson, Committee Secretary

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: SJ 37, 4/5/2005
Executive Action: SJ 37

HEARING ON SJ 37

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

SEN. CAROL WILLIAMS (D), SD 46, opened the hearing on **SJ 37**, Study child protection system.

SEN. WILLIAMS told the Committee the most common things she has heard, in her travels around the State, was somebody having problems with their child, either in the department, courts, or department of corrections. She thought there were things which could be done better and this is the purpose of the study.

Proponents' Testimony:

Anna Whiting Sorrell, Governor Schweitzer's Family Policy Advisor, was excited because, in the whereas clauses, the resolution explains many of the issues she has been seeing. She is looking forward to how the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) system works and how the Executive Branch can work with the Legislative Branch to make it better for the children of Montana. She thanked **SEN. WILLIAMS** for providing this opportunity.

Opponents' Testimony: None.

Informational Testimony: None.

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None.

Closing by Sponsor:

SEN. WILLIAMS closed, saying this is in no way to be a situation where agencies will be picked apart. It is an important task. It should be comprehensive and inclusive. She would appreciate anything anyone can provide to make this better. She asked for a do pass.

EXECUTIVE ACTION ON SJ 37

Motion/Vote: **SEN. MOSS** moved that **SJ 37 DO PASS**. Motion carried 8-1 by voice vote with **SEN. ESP** voting no by proxy. **SEN. COBB**, **SEN. GRIMES**, **SEN. WEINBERG**, and **SEN. SCHMIDT** voted aye by proxy.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 3:30 P.M.

SEN. BRENT R. CROMLEY, Chairman

RITA TENNESON, Secretary

BC/rt

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([phs73aad0.PDF](#))